

A brieft discourse
of the late murther of ma-
ster George Saunders, a worship-
full Citizen of London : and
of the apprehension , arreignment,
and execution of the princi-
pall and accessaries of
the same.

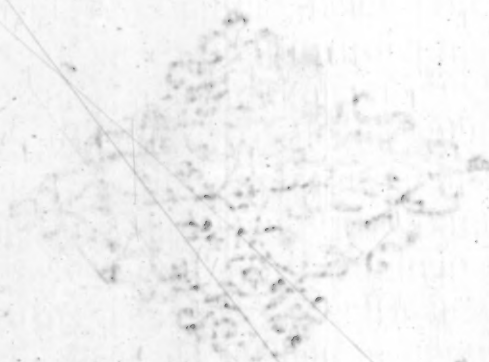
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Or asmuche as the late murther of Master Saunders, Citizen and Merchant taylor of this Citie, ministreth great occasion of talk among al sortes of men, not on- ly here in the Towne, but also farre abrode in the Countrie, and generally thzough the whole Realme : and the sequelles and accidents ensewing therevpon, bzæde muche diuerſitie of reports & opinions, while some do iustly detest the horriblenesse of the vngratious facte, some lamente the grauous losse of their deare friends, some reioyce at the commendable execution of vpright iustice, the godlye bewayle the vnumeſurable inclination of humane nature to extreme wickednesse, and therewith magnifie Gods infinite mercie in reuoking of sorrowne sinners to ſmall repentance, many delight to heare and tell newes, without respect of the certentie of the truth, or regarde of betwee humanitie, euery man debating of the matter as occasion or affection leades him, and few folke turning the aduised consideration of Gods open iudgements, to the speedie reſormation of their owne secrets faults: It is thought conuenient (gentle rea-

ber) to giue thee a playne declaration of the whole matter, according as the same is come to light by open triall of Justice, and voluntarie confession of the parties, that thou mayst both knowe the truth to the satisfiing of thy mind, & the auoyding of miscredite, and also vse the example to the amendment of thy life. Notwithstanding thou shalt not looke for a full discoaerie of euery particuler bymatter appendant to the presente case, whiche mighte serue to feede the fond humoz of such curious appetites as are moze inquisitiue of other folkes offences than hastie to redresse their owne: for that were neyther expedient nor necessary. And mens misdoings are to be prosecuted no further with open detestation, thā till the parties be eyther reclaymed by reasonable and godly perswasion, or punished by orderly and lawfull execution, according to the qualitie of their offence. When lawe hath once passed vpon them, and giue them the wages of their wicked deserts: the christian charitie willeth men eyther to burie the faults with the offendours in perpetual silence, or else so to speake of them, as the vices and not the parties them selues may seeme to be any moze touched.

But hercof shall moze be spoken (God

willing) in the winding vp of this matter.
Nowe I will set downe, first the marthe-
ring of master saunders by George Brown,
with Brownes apprehension, triall and exe-
cution: then the trial and execution of Anne
Saunders, the wife of the sayd George Saun-
ders, of Anne Drewrie widowe, and of Ro-
ger Clement, called among them trustye
Roger the seruant of the sayd Anne Drew-
rie: And lastlye a bryefe rehearsall of cer-
taine sayings and dealings of the parties
conuicted, betwene the tyme of their appze-
hensions, and the tyme of their execution,
whiche are not thinges propre and peculiar
to the very bodie of the case, but yet inci-
dent, and therfore necessarie for the hearer,
as wherby will appeare the verie originall
cause and firste grounde of this vngodlye
deede: And this rehearsall shall be shutte
vp and concluded with a shorthe Admonition
howe we ought to deale in this and al other
suche cases.

The Twisdaye in Easter weeke laste
past (which was the .xxiii. day of March) the
sayde George Browne receyuing secrete in-
telligence by letter from mistresse Drew-
rie, that master Saunders shoulde lodge the
same nighte at the house of one Master
Barnes in Wolwich, and from thence go

in foote to Saffite Marie Tray the nexte
mornning: met him by the way a litle from
Shooters hill, betwene seven and eight of the
clocke in the fore noone, and there slew both
him, and also one John Beane the servant
of the said Master Barnes.

At home as master Saunders felt himselfe
to haue his deathes wounde (for hee was
stricken quite and cleane thzough at the first
blow,) he kneeled downe, and lifting vp
his handes and eyes into heauen, sayd, God
haue mercie vpon mee, and forgiue me my
sinnes, and thee too, speaking to Browne,
whome in deede he knewe not, whatsoeuer
report hath bene made of former acquaint-
fance betwixt them) and with that worde
he gaue vp the Ghost. And Browne (as
he himselfe confessed after ward) was ther-
at stricken with suche a terrour and agonie
of hart, as he wist not what to do, but was
at the poynt to haue fainted euen then and
oftentimes else that day, and coulde byrke
nother meate nor drinke that he receyued
of all that day after. He was so abashed af-
terward at the sight of one of master Saun-
ders little yong childzen, as he had much a
do to forbearc from swoounding in the
street, a notable crample of the secret wo-
king of Gods terrible wyath in a guiltie
and

and bloddie conscience. But M. Barnesis
man hauing ten or eleuen deadly wounds,
and being left for dead, did by Gods won-
derfull pꝛouidence reuue againe, and cree-
ping a great waye on all foure, (for hee
could nother go nor stande) was found by
an old man and his mayden that went that
way to sake their kine, and conueyed to
Wolwich, where he gave euident tokens
and markes of the murtherer: and so conti-
nuing still alike till he had bin appzehen-
ded and bzought vnto him, dyed the next
Monday after. Immediately, vpon the deede
dōing, Browne sente mistresse Drewrye
worde thereof by trustie Roger, he himself
repayzed forthwith to the Court at Green-
wich, and anone after him came thither
the report of the murther also. When depar-
ted he thence vnto London streight wayes,
and came to the house of Mistresse Drewrie,
howbeit he spake not personally with hir.
But after conference had with him, by hir
seruant Roger, she provided him .xx. pounds
the same day, for the which mistresse Drew-
ry layde certaine plate of hir owne and of
mistresse Saunders to gage.

And vpon the next day being Thursday
morning (hauing in the meane tyme had
intelligence that Browne was soughte

foz) they sente him sixe poundes moze by
the sayde Roger, and warned him to thiste
foz himselfe by flight, which thing he fozflo-
wed not to doe. Neuerthelesse the Lordes
of the Quenes Maiesties Counsell, caused
so speedie and narrow searche to be made foz
hym in all places, that vpon the. 28. of the
same moneth he was apprehended in a mas
house of his own name at Rochester, by the
Maioz of the towne: and being broughte
backe againe to the Courte, was examined
by the Counsell, vnto whome he confessed
the dede, as you haue hearde, and that he
had oftentimes befoze pretended & soughte
to do the same, by the instigation of the said
widowe Drenne, who(as he sayd) had pro-
mised to make a mariage between him and
mistresse Saunders, (whome he seemed to
loue excessively,) the desire of whiche hope
haired him fozwarde to dispatche the fact.
Neuertheles he protested, (howbeit vntru-
ly) y^e mistres saunders was not priuie nor
consenteng therunto. Vpon this confessio he
was arraigned at y^e Kings Bench in West-
minster Hal on friday y^e xviij. of April, wher
acknowledging himselfe guiltie, he was co-
demned as principall of the murder of ma-
ster saunders according to whiche sentence
he was executed in Smithfield on monday
the

the. xx. of the same moneth, at whiche tyme
(thoughe vntreuely, as she hir selfe confessed
afterwarde) he laboured by all meanes, to
cleare mistresse Saunders, of committing euill
of hir bodie with him: and afterwarde was
hanged vp in chaynes nere vnto the place
where he hadde done the facte.

Thus much concerning the very case of
the murder it selfe, and the punishment
of the principall doer thereof. As for the ac-
knowledgement of the former wickednesse
of his life, and the heartie repentance that
he pretended for the same, even to his very
death, I deferre them to the laste parte of
this matter, to whiche place those things
do moze peculiarly pertayne. In the meane
tyme, my mistress Drevvie and hir man be-
ing examined, and as well by their owne
confessions, as by the falling oute of the
matter in consequence, and also by Brownies
appeachment, thought culpable, were com-
mitted to warde. And anone after mistresse
Saunders being deliuered of child, & chir-
ched (for at the tyme of hir husbands death
she looked presently to lye downe) was
vpon mistresse Drevvies mans confession,
and vpon other great likelyhoodes and pre-
sumptions likewise committed to warde,
and on wednesday, the sixth of May, arreig-

ried with mistresse Drewrie, at the Guilbe
hall, the effecte of whose severall indite-
ments is this: That they had by a letter
written, bene procurers of the sayde mur-
ther, and so accessaries befoze the fact: And
knowing the murther done, had by money,
and otherwise, relieved and bene ayding
to the murtherer, and so accessaries also af-
ter the facte. Wherunto they both of them
pleaded not gilty. And mistresse Saunders,
notwithstanding the auouchement of mi-
stresse Drewries man face to face, and the
great probabilities of the euidence given in
against hir by master Geffrey, the Quænes
Maiesties Serieant, stode so stoutly still to
the deniall of all things, (in which stoute
deniall she continued also a certayne tyme
after hir condemnation) that some were
brought in a blinde beliefe, that either she
was not gilty at al, or else had but brought
hir selfe in danger of lawe through igno-
rance, and not through pretended malice.
Howbeit, so; as muche as bare deniall is no
sufficient barre to discharge manifest mat-
ter, and apparant euidence: they were both
condemned as accessaries to master Saun-
ders death, and executed in Smithfield the
thirteenth of May, being the wednesday in
the Whilstonweke, at whiche time they
both

both of them confessed themselves guiltie
of the fact, for which they were condem-
ned, and with verge greate repentance
and weakenesse, receyued the rewarde of
their trespassse, in the presence of many
personages of honoꝝ and woꝝship, and of so
great a number of people, as the like hath
not bene seene there together in any mans
remembrance. For almoste the whole
fieloe, and all the way from Newgate, was
as full of folke as coulde well stande one
by another: and besides that, great compa-
nies were placed bothe in the chambers
neere abouts (whose windowes & walles
were in many places beaten down to looke
out at) and also vpon the gutters, sides, and
toppes of the houses, and vpon the battle-
ments and steeple of S. Bartholmewes.

Mistresse Drewries man was arraigned
at Newgate on Friday the vij. of Maye, &
being there condemned as accessarie, was
executed with his mistresse, at the time and
place aforesayd.

Thus haue ye heard the murthering of
master Saunders, with the apprehension,
arrelgnement, condemnation, and executi-
on of the principall and of the accessaries
to the same. Now let vs procede to the in-
cidents that haueyed from the times of their

apprehensions, to the time of their deaths,
and so to the admonition, which is the con-
clusion and fruite of this whole matter.

Whereas it was determined that mi-
stresse Saunders & mistresse Drewrie should
haue suffered upon the nexte saterday after
their condemnation, whiche was Whitson
euen: the matter was stayde till the wed-
nesday in Whitson weeke, upon these occa-
sions ensuing. The booke of Maister Saun-
ders accomptes and rekenings, wherbyon
depended the knowlege of his whole state,
was myssing. Certaine summes of money
were sayde to be in the handes of parties
vnknowne, the intelligence whercof was
desyzed and sought for to the behowie of ma-
ster Saunders chylozen. The parties conuic-
ted were to be reformed to Godwarde, and
to be byoughte to the willing confessing of
the things for whiche they had bene iustly
condemned, and whiche as yet they obsta-
natiy concealed.

And besides al this, one Mell, a minister
that had heretofore ben suspended from his
Ministerie, accompanying mistresse Saun-
ders, from hir condemnation to Newgate,
and conferring with hir as it had bene to
giue hir good counsell and comforte, was so
blynded wyth hir solempne asseuerations

and protestations of innocencie, that notwithstanding he had heard hir inditement, with the exact and substantiall triall of hir case: yet notwithstanding, he perswaded himselfe that she was utterly cleere, and thereuppon falling in loue with hir, dealt with mistresse Drewrie to take the whole guilt vpon hir selfe, vndertaking to sue for mistresse Saunders pardon. And so what by his terrifying of hir, with the horreure of mischarging and calling away of an innocent, what with his promising of certayne money to the mariage of hir daughter, and with other perswasions: she was so wholly wonne that way, that as wel before certaine personages of honour, as also before the Deane of Paules & others, she utterly cleared mistresse Saunders of the facte, or of consent to the same, taking the whole blame thereof to hir selfe, and protesting to stande therein to the death, contrarie to hir former confession at the tyme of hir arraignment.

Mistresse Saunders also, after the laying of this platte, stood so stoutely to hir tackling, that when the Deane of Paules gaue hir godly exhortation for the clearing of hir conscience, and for the recōciling of hir selfe vnto God, as the time and case most needfully required, (as other had done before) he

could obtayne nothing at hir hande. By
meanes whereof, he was sayne to leaue hir
that time, which was the Friday, not with-
out great grieve and indignation of mind to
see hir stubboync unpentauntnesse. In
the meane while, the sayd Mell discouering
his purpose and whole platfornie to an ho-
nest Gentleman, whom he unskilfully toke
to haue bin a welwiller to obtayne the par-
don of mistresse Saunders, was partly by
that meanes, and also by other follies of
his owne, cut off from his enterpryse. For
when he came to sue for hir pardon, which
thing he did with such outrage of dotting af-
fection, that he not only proffered sumes of
mony, but also offered his owne body & life
for the safety of the woman, whom he pro-
tested vpon his conscience to be vnguiltie.
The Lordes of the counsell knowing hir
to be rightly cōdemned by good iustice, and
being priuie to the state of the case before
him, and also finding him out by his owne
vniuersall dealinges (whereof among other one
was, that he intended to marie hir) not only
frustrated his desire, but also adiudged him
to stande vpon the pillorie, with apparant
notes and significations of his lewde and
foolish demeanour. According to the which
annuntment, he was set vpon a pillorie by

the place of execution at the tyme of theyr
suffering, with a paper pinned vpon hys
brest, wherein were witten certain woꝛ-
des in great Letters conteyning the effects
of his fact, to his open shame: *videlicet*, For
practising to colour the detestable factes of
George Saunders wife. Which was a very
good lesson to teache all persons to refrayne
fro any deuises or practises to deface or dis-
credite the honorable proceedings of Coun-
sellours, and publike & lawfull forme of
trialles and iudgements according to Ju-
stice, or to hinder the beneficiall course of so
good examples.

By this occasion Mistresse Sanders was
utterly vnprovidid to die at that time, and
therfoze as well in respect of mercie, as for
the considerations aforesaid, a further re-
spite was giuen to them vnwitting, and a
reprieve was sent by M. Pack Williams for
a time if neede were. In the meane time,
(that is to wit vpon the saturday morning)
the constant repozte goeth, that as certaine
men came talking through Newgate, one
happened to speake lowde of the gallowes
that was set vp, and of the greatnesse and
strongnes of the same, saying it would hold
them both and mee, the sounde of whiche
woꝛdes did so pierce into the watchfull

raies

reares of mistresse Saunders, who lay neare
hand, that being striken to the heart with
the hozroz of the present death which she lo-
ked for that day, she went immediatly to
mistresse Drewrie, and telling hir that she
knew certainly by the wordes which she
had heard, that they should by all likelihode
be executed that day, asked hir if she would
stand to hir former promise. But mistresse
Drewrie after better consideration of hir
selfe, counselling hir to fall to playne
and simple dealing; telling hir, that for hir
owne parte she was fully determined not
to dissemble any longer, nor to hazarde hir
owne soule eternally for the safetie of an
other bodiees temporall life. Then mistresse
Saunders, who had determined to acknow-
ledge nothing agaynst hir selfe, so long as
she might be in any hope of life, howbeit
that she alwayes purposed to utter the truth
whensoeuer she should come to the instant
of death, as she hir self confessed afterward:
being striken both with feare and remorse,
did by the aduise of master Cole, (who la-
boured verie earnestly with hir to bring hir
to repentance, and was come to hir verie
early that morning, because it was thought
they shoulde haue bene executed presently)
send for the Deane of Paules agayne, and

betwixt

belwayling hir former stubbornnes, declared
vnto him and master Cole, master Charke,
and master Yong, that shee had giuen hir
consent and procurement to hir husbandes
death, thzough vnlawfull lustre and liking
that she had to Brown confessing hir sinful-
nesse of life committed with him: and hum-
bly submitting herselfe to hir deserved pu-
nishment, besought them of spirituall com-
fort and counsell, which thing they were
glad to perceyue, and therevpon employed
their trauell to do them good: and laboured
very painfully to instruct them aright: for
(God wote) they founde all the thze priso-
ners very rawe and ignozant in all things
perteyning to God & to their soule health,
yea and euen in the very pnciples of the
Chzisten religion. Neuerthelesse thzough
Gods good working with their labour, they
recouered them out of Sathans kingdome
vnto Chzist, insomuch that besides their
voluntary acknowledging of their late hei-
nous fact, they also detested the former sin-
fulnesse of their life, and willingly yelded to
the death which they had shunned, vttering
such certaine tokens of their vnfeigned re-
pentance by all kinde of modestie & meeke-
nesse, as no greater could be deuised. For
Mistresse Saunders the same day sent for

C.

hir

hir husbands brothers and their wiues and
kinnsfolke that were in the towne, whiche
came vnto hir the day befoze hir death: in
whose pzeſence ſhe knœling mildely on hir
knees, with abundance of ſozrowful teares,
deſired them of ſozgiueneſſe ſoz bereuening
them of their deare brother and friende:
wherevnto maſter Saunders the Lawyer in
the name of them al answered, that as they
were very ſozie both ſoz the loſſe of theyr
friend, and alſo ſoz hir heinous fault, ſo they
heartily ſozgaue hir, and in token thereof
knœled downe altogethyer, praying to
G D D wyth hir and ſoz hir, that hee alſo
ſo woulde remitte hir ſinne.

Besides this pitiful ſubmiſſion, ſhe alſo be-
wayled hir offence towardeſ hir owne kin-
red, whome ſhe had ſtayned by hir trespas,
and towardeſ the whole woꝝlde, in whom ſhe
had offended by hir crime, but eſpecially hir
chilozen, whome ſhe had not onely bereſte
bothe of father and mother, but alſo leſte
them a coarſe and ſhame. Wherefoze, af-
ter exhortation giuen to ſuche of them as
were of any capacitie and diſcretion, that
they ſhoulde feare God, and learne by hir
fall to auoyde ſinne: ſhe gaue eche of thoſe
a booke of maſter Bradfordes meditations,
wherin ſhe deſired the ſozelapd thꝛee prea-
chers

chers to wyte some admonition as they
thought good : Whiche done, she subscribed
them with these wordes : Youre sorowfull
mother Anne Saunders. And so blessing the
in the name of God & of our Sauioz Iesus
Christ, she sent the away out of hir sorow-
full sight, and gaue hir selfe wholly to the
settling of hir griued heart to the quiet re-
ceiuing of the bitter cup, which she dranke
of the nexte day, as hath bene tolde befoze.
Howbeit, without doubt, to hir everlasting
comfozte.

And mistresse Drewrie no lesse carefull of
hir owne state, besides hir humble repen-
tance in the prison, and hir earnest desiring
of the people to pray for hir selfe, and the o-
thers with hir as they came toward execu-
tion, did vpon the Carte not onely con-
fesse hir guiltinesse of the facte, as mistresse
Saunders had don, but also with great low-
linesse and reuerence first kneeling downe
towards the Carle of Bedforde and other
noble men that were on horsebacke on the
East side of the stage, tooke it vpon hir death
that whereas it had bin repozted of hir that
she had paysoned hir late husbände Master
Drewrie, and dealt with witchcraft and soz-
cerie, and also appeached diuers merchaute
mens wiues of dissolute and vnchast living,

she had done none of all those thinges, but was vtterlie cleare bothe to God and the woꝛlde of all suche manner of dealing. And then with like obeysance, turning hir selfe to the Earle of Darbie, who was in a chamber behinde hir, she protested vnto him befoze God, that whereas she had bene reported to haue bene the cause of separation betwixte him and my Lady his wyfe: she neither procured noꝛ consented to any suche thing. But otherwise, wheras in the time of hir seruice in his house, she had offended him, in neglecting oꝛ contemning hir duetie, she acknowledged hir fault, and besoughte him foꝛ Gods sake to foꝛgiue hir: who very honozably, and euen with teares accepted hir submission, and openly protested him selfe to pray hartily to God foꝛ hir.

Hir seruant also, hauing openly acknowledged his offence, kneeled meekly downe, praying seuerally with a preacher, as eche of them had done at their first comming to the place. Which done, they were all put in a readinesse by the Executioner, and at one instant (by drawing away the Cart whereon they stode) were sent togither out of this woꝛlde vnto God.

And Browne also, a good while afoze, dur

ring the time of his imprisonment, coming to a better minde than he had bene of in time past, confessed that he had not heere, tofoze frequēted sermons, noz receiued the holy sacrament, noz vsed any calling vpon God priuate or publike, noz giue him selfe to reading of holy Scripture, or any booke of godlynesse: but had altogether followed the appetites and lustes of his sinfull flesh, euen with greedinesse and outrageous contempt both of God and man. Neuerthelesse God was so good vnto him, and schooled him so well in that short time of imprisonment, as he cloased vp his life with a maruellous apparance of heartie repentance, constant trust in Gods mercy through Iesus Christ, and willingnesse to forsake this miserable worlde.

Howe remayneth to shewe what is to be gathered of this terrible example, and how we oughte to apply the same to our owne behoufe. First I note with S. Paule, that when men regarde not to knowe God, or not to honour him when they know him: God giueth them ouer to their own lustes, so as they runne on from sinne to sinne, and from mischiefe to mischiefe, to do suche things as are shamefull and odious, euen in the sight of the worlde, to their owne vn-

auoidable perils. And when the measure of their iniquitie is filled vp, there is no way for them to escape the iustice of God, which they haue prouoked. Insomuche, that if they might eschue all bodily punishment: yet the very hell of their owne conscience would prosecute them, and the sting of their minde would be a continuall prison, torment, and torture to them, wheresoeuer they went. Agayne on the other side, we must marke the infinit greatnesse of Gods wisdom and mercy, who perceyuing the peruerse wilfulnesse of mans frowarde nature to sinning, suffereth men sometimes to runne so long vpon the bzidle, till it seeme to themselues, that they may safely do what they list, and to the worlde, that they be past recoverie vnto goodnesse: and yet in the end catching them in their chiefe pryde, he rayseth them by their ouerthrow, ameneth them by their wickednesse, and reuiceth them by their death, in such wise blotting out the stayne of their former filthe, that their darknesse is turned into light, and their terrour to their comfort. Moreover, when God bringeth such matters vpon the stage, vnto the open face of the worlde: It is not to the intent that men should gaze and wonder at the persons, as byzdes do at

an Dwle, not that they should delight them
selues & others with the sond & peradventure
sinister repozting of them, noz vpbzayd the
whole stocke and kinred with the fault of
the offenders : no surely, God meaneth no
such thing. His purpose is, that the executi-
on of his iudgements, should by the terrour
of the outward sight of the example, vziue
vs to the inward cōsideration of our selues.
Beholde, wee bee all made of the same
moulde, pzinted with the same stampe, and
indued with the same nature that the offen-
ders are. We be the impes of the olde A-
dam, and the venim of sinne whiche he re-
ceiued from the olde serpent, is sherde into
vs all, and woꝝketh effectually in vs all.
Suche as the roote is, suche are the bzau-
ches, and the twiggs of a thozne oz bzam-
ble can beare no grapes. That we stande, it
is the benefite of Gods grace, and not the
goodnesse of our nature, noz the strengthe
of oure owne will. That they are false, it
was of frayltie : wherfrom we be no moze
pziuiledged than they : and that shoulde we
ouersone perceiue by experience, if we wer
left to our selues. He that looketh severely
into other mennes faultes, is lightly blynd
in his owne : and he that either vpbzaydeth
the repentant that hath receyued punishe-
ment.

ment, or reprocheth the kindred or offspring
with the fault of the auncester or alge, how
greate so euer the same hath ben: sheweth
himselſe not to haue any remoꝛse of his
owne sinnes, nor to remember that he him
selſe also is a man: but (which thyng he
woulde little thinke) he fully matcheth the
crime of the misdoer, if he do not surmount
it by his presumptuousnesse.

When it was tolde oure Saniour
Chꝛyst that Pilate had mingled the blond
of certain men with their owne sacrifice,
what aunswere made hee? Did hee de
test the offenders? did he declame against
their dwings? Did he exaggarate the fault
of the one, or the crueltie of the other? No.
But framing and applying the example too
the refoꝛmation of the hearer, suppose ye
(sayd he) that those Galileans wer greater
sinners than all the other Galileans, by
cause they suffered such punishment? I tell
you nay: but except ye repente, ye shall all
likewise perishe. I think ye that those eigh
tene vpon whom the toure in Silo fell, and
slew them, were sinners aboue all y dwell
in Hierusalem? I tel you nay: but except ye
repent, ye shall all perishe likewise. Let vs
applie this to our presente purpose. Where
those whō we saw iustly executed in Smith
field,

field greater sinners than al other English
people? were they greater sinners than all
Londoners? Were they greater sinners than
all that looked vpon them? No verily: but
except their exāple leade vs to repentance,
we shall all of vs come to as soze punish-
ment in this woꝛlde, oꝛ else to sozer in the
woꝛlde to come. Their faults came into the
open Theater, & therefore seemed the grea-
ter to our eyes, and surely they were great
in deede: neyther are ours the lesse, because
they lye hidden in the couert of oure hearte.
God the searcher of all secrets saith them,
and if he list he can also discover them. He
hath shewed in some, what al of vs deserue,
to prouoke vs al to repentance, that al of vs
myght haue mercie at his hand, and shewe
mercie one to an other, & with one mouthe
and one hearte glorifie his godnesse. It is
sayde by the Prophete Samuel, that diso-
bedience is as the sinne of Witchcraft.
Lette euery of vs looke into himselfe (but
first lette him put on the spectacles of Gods
lawe, and carie the lyghte of Gods woꝛde
with him) and he shall see suche a gulfe of
disobedience in himselfe, as he maye well
thinke there is none offender but himselfe.
I say not this as a cloaker of offences, that
white should not be called white, & blacke:

D

blacke,

blacke: or as a patrone of misdoers, that they shoulde not haue their deserued hye: but to repressse our hastie iudgements and vncharitable speeches, that we myght both detest wickednesse with perfect hatred, and rue the persons with christe modestie: knowing that with what measure we met vt to others, with the same shall it be moten to vs agayne.

Finally, let al folkes both married and vnmarried, learne hereby to possesse and keepe their vessell in honestie and cleannesse. For if the knot betwene man and wife (whiche ought to be inseparable) be once broken, it is seldome or neuer knit again. And though it be, yet is not the wound so thoroughly healed, but there appereth some skarre euer after. But if the soze rancle & fester inwardly (as commonly it doth except the more grace of God be) in the end it bursteth forth to the destructiō or hurt of both parties, not lightly without great harne to others also besides themselues, as we see by this example. For when the body which was dedicated to God to be his temple and the tabernacle of his holy spirite, is become the sinke of sinne and cage of vncleannesse the deuill ceaseth not to driuē the parties still headlong vnto naughtinesse, till they be falne eyther into
open

open shame and danger of temporall law:
or into damnable destruction both of body
soule, according as Salomon in his Pro-
uerbes sayth, that the steps of a harlot leade
downe vnto death, and hir feete perce euen
vnto hell. Therefore good reader, so heare
and reade this present example, as the same
may turne to the bettering of thy state,
and not to occasion of slander, nor
to the hurt of thine owne con-
science, nor to the offence
of thy Christian
brethren.

Farewell. A. G.

D.ij.

Anne Saunders confession as she spake
it at the place of execution.

Good people, I am come hither
to die the deathe, whereunto I
am adiudged, as worthely & as de-
seruedly as euer died any: I had a
good husband, by whom I had ma-
nie childzen, with whom I liued in
wealthe, & might haue done stil, had
not the deuill kindled in my hearte,
first the hellish firebrand of vnlaw-
full lust, & afterward a murtherous
intent to procure my saide husbände
to be bereued of his life, which was
also by my wicked meanes accom-
plished, as to the world is known.
And as I woulde if he coulde heare
me, if it might be, prostrate vpon the
ground, at my husbands feete, aske
mercy with plentiful teares of him,
so that which I may & I oughte to
doe, I aske mercye of God, I aske
mercie of all men and women of the
world, who by my deede & example
I haue offended: and especiall ye I
be,

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be'waile my husbände, & aske mecie
of my childre whōe I haue beraued
of so good a father, I aske mercy of
his kindred and frendes whome I
haue hurt, & of all my frends & kin-
dred, of whom I am abashed and a-
shamed: and beyng of my selfe vn-
worthy of pittie, yet I besech them
all, & you all, & all the whole worlde
euen for gods sake, and for our saui-
our Christs sake to forgiue me. And
I thank God with my whole harte,
he hathe not suffered me to haue the
reigne and bridle of sinning gyuen
me at my will, to the daunger of my
eternall damnatiō, but that he hath
founde out my sin, & brought me to
punishment in this world, by his fa-
therly correctiō, to amend, to spare,
and saue me in the world to come: &
I beseeche him graunte me his hea-
uenly grace, that all who do behold
or shall heare of my death, maye by
the example therof be frayed from
like sinning. And I besech you all
to pray for me and with me.

The Prayer whiche was
said by Anne Saunders at the place of
execution, the copie wherof, she deliue-
red vnto the right honourable
the Earle of Bedforde.



SI doe confesse vvyth
great sorrovv (O deare
father) that I haue grie-
uously, and oftentimes
sinned againste heauen
and against thee, & am
vnyworthy to be called thy daughter, so
(O deare Father) I acknowvledge thy
mercy, thy grace and loue tovvards me,
most vvretched sinner, offred me in my
Lorde and sauiour Iesus Christe, in
vvhom thou giuest me an hearte to re-
pent. And by repentance hast put away
my sinnes, and throwne them into the
bottome of the Sea, O deare Father en-
crease and continue this grace vntill the
ende, and in the ende. I testifie this day
(O Lord my God) thy loue, O Lorde,
thy sauing health is life euerlasting, and
ioy vvithout end: and bicause thou hast

touched my sinfull heart vvith the
pleasure of my sinne, and vvith a de-
of thy kingdome, O deare Father, f
thy Christes sake, as I hope thou vvilt,
so I beseeche thee to finishethat good
vvorke in me. Suffer me not, mercifull
and louing Father, to be troubled vvith
death vvhen it layeth holde on me: nor
vvith the loue of life, vvhen it shalbe
taken avvay. O Lorde, novve as thou
hast, so still lifte vp my soule as it vvere
vvith an eagles vvings vnto Heauen,
thereto beholde thee. Lorde into thy
hands I commit my body, that it be not
troubled in death, and my soule, that it
see not damnation. Come Lorde Iesu,
come assiste me vvith thy holy spirite,
a vveake vvomā in a strong battell, come
Lord Iesu, come quickly saue thy hand
maide that putteth hir trust in thee, be-
hold me in Christ, receiue me in christ,
in vvhofe name I pray saying. Our Fa-
ther. &c.

Anne Saunders dying to the
world, and liuing to God.

After this she also said a godly Prayer out of the Ser-
vice booke, which is vsed to be said at the heur of death

note of a certaine saying
wyhich Master Saunders had leste
written with his owne hand
in his studie.



Christe shalbe magnified in
my body, whither it be tho-
rough life or else death. For
Christe is to me life, and
death is to me aduantage.
These wordes were. M. Nowels Theame
which he preached at the buriall of my bro-
ther Haddon vpon Thursday beyng y. xxv.
day of Januarie Anno. Do. 1570. Anno. Re-
gina Elizabeth. 13. Among other things which
he preached, this saying of his is to be had
alwayes in remembrance, that is, that we
must all (when we come to pray) first accuse
and cōdemne our selues for our sinnes com-
mitted against God befoze the seate of hys
Justice, and then after cleaue vnto him by
saythe in the mercy and merites of our
Sauoure and Redemer Iesus
Christ, whereby we are as-
sured of eternall
saluation.

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22 JY 63

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